

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 A-01 FBOE-00 OPR-02 SS-15 SY-05

SCSE-00 SCA-01 PPTE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 PA-02 PRS-01

USIE-00 ST-01 /044 W

----- 097660

O R 031900Z APR 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7028

INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

AMCONSUL MERIDA

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

AMCONSUL TIJUANA

UNCLAS MEXICO 2886

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, ABLD, ASEC, ASUP, MX

SUBJ: FIRE IN US CONSULATE GENERAL IN GUADALAJARA APRIL 2

1. US CONSULATE GENERAL IN GUADALAJARA REPORTS A FIRE
BROKE OUT IN ITS FIRST FLOOR SOMETIME BETWEEN 7 AND 9:15 PM
APRIL 2. BUILDING WAS LOCKED FOR NIGHT AND UNOCCUPIED AT
TIME. FIRE, WHICH BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL BY 10:30 PM
BY LOCAL FIRE FIGHTING FORCES, DID EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO
THREE OFFICES DEALING WITH SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES
MATTERS AND TO BOTH PROTECTION AND WELFARE AND PASSPORT
AND CITIZENSHIP FILES. ENTIRE BUILDING SUFFERED SMOKE
DAMAGE, THERE IS SOME WATER DAMAGE, AND NUMEROUS WINDOWS
BROKEN. TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD AN SYSTEM RENDERED AT
LEAST TEMPORARILY INOPERABLE, AND TROUBLESOME DEGREE OF
DAMAGE TO FURNISHING AND OFFICE MACHINES.

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2. CONSUL GENERAL MATHIAS ORTWEIN AND SEVERAL OTHER

OFFICERS OF CONGEN WERE ON SCENE WHILE FIREMEN FOUGHT FIRE. CONGEN OFFICERS ENTERED BUILDING AFTER FIRE EXTINGUISHED BUT UNABLE TO DETERMINE FULL EXTENT OF DAMAGE DUE TO SMOKE AND FUMES.

3. ALTHOUGH CAUSE OF FIRE IS UNDETERMINED PENDING INVESTIGATION BY FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, APRIL 3 PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE FIRE PROBABLY DUE TO ELECTRICAL CAUSES.

4. ORTWEIN REPORTED THAT NO SECURITY BREACHES APPARENTLY OCCURRED AND THAT ONE OF CONGEN OFFICERS WOULD GUARD BUILDING THROUGH THE NIGHT OF APRIL 2-3 TOGETHER WITH 6 LOCAL POLICEMEN.

5. ORTWEIN ALSO REPORTED THE CONGEN STAFF WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO OFFER SERVICE TO THOSE PERSONS NEEDING THEM ON URGENT BASIS APRIL 3, AND THAT ONE LOCAL RADIO STATION ALREADY CONTACTED EVENING OF APRIL 2 AND AGREED TO BROADCAST THIS INFORMATION. CONGEN WILL MAKE SIMILAR REQUEST TO OTHER STATIONS APRIL 3.

6. EMBASSY HAS SENT SECURITY OFFICER, GSO, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER AND BUILDING ENGINEER TO GUADALAJARA MORNING APRIL 3 TO ASSIST IN ASSESSING DAMAGE AND ESTIMATING REPAIRS AND MATERIALS NEEDED TO RESTORE BUILDING.

7. IF QUERIED BY PRESS, ORTWEIN SAID CONSULATE WILL SIMPLY STATE FIRE OCCURRED IN CONGEN EVENING OF APRIL 2 AND CAUSES NOT YET DETERMINED.

8. EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER REPORTED SUBSTANCE OF PARAS 1 TO 3 TO DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS CENTER AT ABOUT 11:00 PM, APRIL 2.
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